

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

CHASE

-- Which organs? --

HOUSE

-- all of 'em; I want thin cuts.
Did I forget anything?

CHASE

Kitchen sink.

Off the team:

3A EXT. 2ND FLOOR HALLWAY -- DAY

3A*

The elevator doors open. Stacy exits. Heads down the hallway. At the nurse's station, CUDDY, with a stack of files under her arm, intercepts --

CUDDY

Stacy --

Stacy sees her. Friendly.

STACY

Mm, nice suit. Goes with the new big-time job.

CUDDY

Yes, baby-sitting a staff of a thousand -- much more glamorous than I imagined.

STACY

(smiles)

I assume you want me to sign some papers.

Cuddy hands her a document. Stacy doesn't bother to read it; just stops, props the document up against a wall and signs as Cuddy talks...

CUDDY

House dosing your husband is probably outside our general insurance coverage. You'd know better than me; your firm vetted the contract.

Stacy thinks. Then signs the document a second time and hands it back to Cuddy. Cuddy takes a glance as they start walking again...

CUDDY (CONT'D)

Oh look. Mark signed it too. That's a load off my mind.

STACY

Good to see you, Lisa. Really.

(CONTINUED)

3A CONTINUED:

3A

CUDDY

He's in good hands.

STACY

I know.

And Stacy heads one way and Cuddy another...

CUDDY

Insane. But good.

4 INT. 4TH FLOOR HALLWAY -- DAY 4

House and WILSON, as they walk and talk.

WILSON

What you're thinking is you're gonna
 save him, be a hero and win her back.
 Always impressive, that level of
 twisted narcissism.

HOUSE

(you're wrong)
 She's married, big clue I lost the
 game.

WILSON

You can't be within 50 feet of Stacy
 Warner.

HOUSE

Thought you wanted me to treat him?

WILSON

Treat the husband, stay away from
 the wife.

HOUSE

What if they get close to each other,
 what do I do then?

WILSON

You gotta handle this like a regular
 case. Be yourself -- cold, uncaring,
 distant.

HOUSE

Don't put me on a pedestal.

Off Wilson's look as they walk on...

5 INT. MARK'S PATIENT ROOM -- DAY 5

Mark's in bed, Stacy's nearby, Cameron delivers the news --

(CONTINUED)

10

INT. HOUSE'S INNER OFFICE -- LATE AT NIGHT

10

In dim light, House watches a DVD of Mark's surgery, a CHYRON title on the lower right of the monitor reads "Warner, M." House is relentless, eyes pressed to his little TV screen, working the forward and reverse. An untouched pizza on his desk. He takes a Vicodin with a shot of Jack Daniels on ice. Wilson comes in.

WILSON

You're here late.

No response. Wilson stands behind House.

WILSON (CONT'D)

Nice intestinal wall. Not as thick as yours, but still.

No response. Wilson sees the Jack Daniels. House reverses, goes forward.

WILSON (CONT'D)

I suppose that's what you and Stacy were talking about in the waiting area today.

House stops the DVD. Looks at Wilson.

HOUSE

You know, if your ex-wives kept tabs on you as well as you keep tabs on me, you'd still be married to them.
(thinks)
And living in Utah I guess.

WILSON

You're like a twelve-year-old kid. Only shot I had at keeping you away was suggesting that you spend every waking minute with her.

HOUSE

Can twelve-year-olds drink?
(takes a sip)
They certainly can't look this sophisticated.

House isn't going to take this seriously. Wilson gives up, turns to exit. House stops him with:

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Yes, I was talking to her. Yes I like her. That's why I was talking to her. I can handle it.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

WILSON

(worried)

You sure?

HOUSE

(no)

...What choice do I have?

(CONTINUED)

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

14 INT. MARK'S PATIENT ROOM -- DAY

14

TIGHT ON an EEG monitor. WIDER to INCLUDE Foreman administering the test to Mark, in bed, EEG pads attached to his head, eyes closed. (Notice flowers have been delivered.)

MARK

What's the best it could be?

FOREMAN

Misfiring neurons. That's an easy fix. Medication.

(beat)

Open your eyes for me.

Mark opens his eyes. Foreman shines a light in each one, checks the readout.

MARK

What's the worst it could be?

FOREMAN

You're already dead and this is heaven.

Mark smiles.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

Close your eyes.

He does.

MARK

What's House like?

FOREMAN

An excellent diagnostician.

MARK

Nice guy?

FOREMAN

...Very good diagnostician.

Foreman sees something on the monitor that's not good.

MARK (O.S.)

See something bad?

Foreman turns; Mark's looking right at him, eyes open.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

FOREMAN

(smooth lying)

Probably just 'cause you opened your eyes. Close 'em.

Mark looks at Foreman, not really buying it. But he closes his eyes.

15 INT. HOUSE'S OUTER OFFICE -- DAY

15

House and the team look at GRAPHS of the EEG.

FOREMAN

I saw a very small, diffuse abnormality in the brain waves. Probably white matter. Means his axonal nerves are dying. Explains the neurogenic bladder.

HOUSE

Enough nerves die, he dies.

FOREMAN

Global axonal nerve death. Likely causes are encephalitis or Alzheimer's.

CAMERON

(specifically)

Early Onset Alzheimer's. The worst.

HOUSE

He won't die right away, he'll just want to. Forty years old, living in diapers.

CAMERON

I'll check his blood for the Alzheimer's protein markers.

HOUSE

Last I heard, Alzheimer's had a genetic component. Did the patient have parents?

CAMERON

The parents died -- in a car crash. There was no history of dementia.

Cameron hands House a file. House doesn't look at it.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

STACY

(correcting)

-- He. And he sent me the bear.

HOUSE

Figures. He seems to think I'm not over you and that it might be dangerous for me to spend time with you. I'm thinking your friends have similar concerns. And so you didn't tell them you'd be here. With me.

STACY

That's one impressive ego you've got.

HOUSE

Oh go on, tell me more about me. Tell me they know and don't have a problem.

She's silent.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

Weird. You can't lie to me but you can lie to your husband.

STACY

I never lied to Mark.

He flips her cross around to face forward.

HOUSE

You told him your mother gave you this.

STACY

She did. The original.

HOUSE

But I replaced it. After you lost it -- not your fault, sex in the MRI machine, easy to lose things...

STACY

What's your point? I'm still in love with you? I should abandon my dying husband and we should head for Rio?

HOUSE

...No.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

STACY

Our first didn't either. I wasn't going to see him again... A week later, I moved in.

(beat)

Five years. What do you want to know?

CAMERON

What was he like before the leg?

STACY

Pretty much the same.

The timer rings. Stacy stares at Cameron, frozen. The scanner prints out a lab value. Tension. Then, Cameron smiles --

CAMERON

He's clear. No Alzheimer's.

STACY

Yeah, that's what I figured.

As Stacy leaves, turned away from Cameron, she breathes a huge sigh of relief, revealing her true fear. She knows she dodged a bullet.

17A EXT. STACY AND MARK'S HOUSE -- DAY

17A*

ESTABLISHING a nice family house in Short Hills. The heart of suburbia.

18 INT. MARK AND STACY'S - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

18

Nice, middle-class house, lots of books, a good feeling. Chase and Foreman look at a picture of Mark and Stacy on the piano.

FOREMAN

Can't imagine her with House.

CHASE

Can't imagine anyone with House.

19 INT. MARK AND STACY'S - SUN PORCH -- DAY

19*

As Chase searches in the EXERCISE ROOM beyond (with a TV in it), Foreman finds a dusty mountain bike under a tarp, and squeezes the soft rear tire. Chase comes out from the exercise room carrying a gym bag with Mark's initials on it, and a yoga tape.

(CONTINUED)

27

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE MARK'S PATIENT ROOM -- DAY

27

Stacy walks with House away from the patient room.

STACY

You couldn't just come in to the room?

HOUSE

I wanted to talk to you, not him.

STACY

He's completely paranoid -- thinks you and I are scheming to be together.

HOUSE

(abrupt)

He's had five visitors drive down; I didn't recognize any of them. Six more sent flowers, candy and a teddy bear - I'm sure he finds it very comforting, but I didn't recognize any of the names on the cards.

STACY

Shockingly, Mark has friends and I've made some new ones.

HOUSE

It's not shocking that you've made new friends; it's shocking that you've apparently dumped all your old ones.

STACY

I haven't.

HOUSE

No, I didn't think so. I just think you didn't tell any of them you were down here. Why would that be? Why wouldn't you tell your oldest friends that you were taking Mark to Princeton Plainsboro Teaching Hospital to try to save his life?

STACY

I've been busy; I haven't kept track of who knows what --

HOUSE

My old friends are telling me to be careful - for some reason, they --

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

House nods.

HOUSE

I was happy.

Off Wilson...

HOUSE (CONT'D)

You ever have to decide between two movies and you think you want to see both of them just as much so you flip a coin. It comes up heads and suddenly you think to yourself... 'Damn'. It was like that.

(then)

He's my patient; I'm sure he's a good guy, probably a great guy, apparently a much better guy than I am. And some part of me wants him to die.

(then)

I'm just not sure if it's because I want to be with her. Or if it's because I want her to suffer.

Off House...

31 INT. MARK'S PATIENT ROOM -- DAY

31

Stacy holds Mark's hand. He looks about the same as the last time we saw him - which is pretty crappy.

House enters.

HOUSE

Hey.

(to Mark)

Is it okay if I talk to Stacy for a minute?

Well, that was different. For House. Stacy gets up.

STACY

(to Mark)

I'll be just outside, honey.

Mark nods. House handles the endearment in stride...

32 INT. 2ND FLOOR HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER

32

House is with Stacy.

HOUSE

How's he feeling?

STACY

No change.

HOUSE

I'm sorry.

STACY

Don't play the bedside doc; doesn't suit you.

A long beat -- this isn't easy for him to admit.

HOUSE

You two are good together.

STACY

You know nothing about Mark.

HOUSE

He took you to Paris.

Stacy looks at House, confused.

HOUSE (CONT'D)

That's good enough for me.

STACY

We never went to Paris.

(CONTINUED)

33A CONTINUED: (2)

33A

HOUSE

Sure there is.

Off House.

34 INT. MARK'S PATIENT ROOM -- DAY

34

House is present with Caméron, Chase and Foreman. Stacy sits next to Mark.

HOUSE

Acute Intermittent Porphyria has very specific triggers. Barbiturates, alcohol, high levels of protein will set off an attack.

STACY

Which trigger do you think set off Mark's?

HOUSE

Not the faintest idea. That's why I'm gonna give him the combo plate. All of it.

STACY

So if he has this and you trigger an attack, the attack makes him worse, right?

HOUSE

Yes. But then we know what it is and we can treat it.

MARK

And if I don't have this thing and you give me that shot, what happens?

HOUSE

(shrugs)

No idea. If we don't know what's messing with your brain, we don't know how you'll react. It's not a great idea to ram an almost random cocktail of prescription drugs into a healthy body - I'm guessing it's worse if you're sick.

Stacy and Mark exchange a look; he's scared - she turns to House:

STACY

I need a minute with my husband.

(CONTINUED)

STACY

I'm not going to sue you; I'm not going to report you.

HOUSE

He might.

STACY

He's paralyzed. Either you cure him or he's not writing any letters.

HOUSE

I'm not doing it.

STACY

Why not?

HOUSE

You keep asking me that; my answer doesn't change. I told him the parameters; it's his call.

STACY

(shocked; realizes)

You want him to die.

HOUSE

Now who's got the ego problem?

And the conversation gets progressively more heated.

STACY

You think if he dies, we'll be together.

*

HOUSE

I diagnosed him. I did my job. If you want somebody to tie him down and force him into treatment, you're way better at that than I am.

STACY

Is that what this is? Payback for your leg? How many times have we been over this? I saved your life.

*

*

HOUSE

Yeah, maybe.

*

STACY

You're gonna kill my husband to teach me a lesson?

(CONTINUED)